

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 INT-08 COME-00 EB-11 SCEM-02

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OEP-01 SAJ-01 XMB-07 RSR-01 /138 W
----- 000507

R 200845 Z APR 73 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3297
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: ENRG JA US UR
SUBJ: JAPANESE SOVIET TALKS ON TYUMEN OIL

REF MOSCOW 4113; TOKYO 3528

1. JAPANESE TEAM RETURNED APRIL 18 FROM MOSCOW WHERE MEMBERS HAD HELD TALKS WITH SOVIET TRADE OFFICIALS ON SHAPE OF DETAILED NEGOTIATION ON TYUMEN PIPELINE PROJECT. HEAD OF TEAM, JUNZO HIGAKI, SENIOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OVERSEAS PETROLEUM CORP., TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 19 THAT HE HAD FOUND SOVIET ATTITUDE CONSIDERABLY WARMER THAN ON PREVIOUS TRIPS, AND SAID IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT SOVIET TRADE OFFICIALS WERE UNDER ORDERS OFFER FULL COOPERATION ON TYUMEN PROJECT.

2. HIGAKI SAID HE HAD GIVEN OUTLINE OF JAPANESE POSITION ON PROJECT (MINUS THE NUMBERS) TO FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER SEMICHASTNOV. AFTER WEEK OF STUDY (DURING WHICH HIGAKI REMAINED IN MOSCOW), SEMICHASTNOV HAD ASKED (1) IF GOJ SUPPORTED FUNDAMENTALS OF JAPANESE COMPANY POSITION AND (2) IF JAPANESE EXIMBANK WOULD PLAY CENTRAL ROLE IN FINANCING DEAL.

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WHEN HIGAKI REPLIED YES TO BOTH QUESTIONS, SEMICHASTNOV SAID HE WOULD REPORT TO MINISTERIAL COUNCIL, AFTER WHICH SOVIETS WOULD RESPOND TO JAPANESE REQUEST FOR FULL SCALE NEGOTIATIONS IN LAST WEEK IN MAY OR FIRST WEEK IN JUNE. HIGAKI ADDED HE QUITE CONFIDENT SOVIETS WOULD ACCEPT.

2. HIGAKI TOLD EMBOFF THAT SOVIETS CONSIDERING PURCHASE OF VERY LARGE EARTH MOVING MACHINERY USED IN PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM U. S. SINCE IT WAS NOT MANUFACTURED IN JAPAN. HIGAKI ADDED IN PASSING THAT SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE OFFICIALS HAD SPOKEN HIGHLY OF THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH U. S. EXIMBANK, WITH CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT JAPANESE EXIMBANK WOULD DO WELL TO FOLLOW U. S. EXAMPLE.
INGERSOLL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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